



# Senior Companion Program



## GENERAL BACKGROUND

*The Senior Companion Program, which began in 1974, helps homebound seniors and other frail adults maintain independence in their own homes. Approximately 15,000 Senior Companions serve more than 56,000 individuals each year. Among other activities, they assist with daily living tasks, such as grocery shopping and bill paying; provide friendship and companionship; alert doctors and family members to potential problems; and give respite to family caregivers.*

## SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM STATISTICS FOR 2005:

• Program Participants	15,037
• Hours Served	13 million
• Elderly/Frail Clients Served	56,592
• Caregivers Given Respite	6,894
• Number of Projects	223
• Fiscal Year 2005 Budget	\$45.90 million
• Fiscal Year 2006 Budget	\$46.96 million

## OTHER FACTS

- Senior Companions serve between 15 and 40 hours a week and typically reach between two and four clients each.
- 88 percent of family members/caregivers/clients report that the service provided by Senior Companions helped them considerably or moderately to improve their quality of life.
- 91 percent of Senior Companion projects met their project performance goals in 2005.
- 34.7 percent of Senior Companion project resources are provided by non-Corporation sources.
- Surveys on independent living demonstrate that Senior Companions provide highly valued assistance that helps elderly and disabled clients feel less isolated and remain independent in their own homes.

(Continued)

## **ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFITS**

The Senior Companion Program is open to income-eligible people age 60 and over. In return for their service, Senior Companions receive a stipend of \$2.65 an hour, accident and liability insurance and meals while on duty, reimbursement for transportation, and monthly training.

## **CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

The Senior Companion Program is part of Senior Corps, a network of national and community service programs that each year supports the engagement of nearly 500,000 Americans age 55 and older in service to meet critical needs in education, the environment, public safety, homeland security, and other areas. Senior Corps is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, which also administers AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve America. The mission of the Corporation is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering. Together with USA Freedom Corps, the Corporation is working to foster a culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility in America. For more information, visit [www.nationalservice.gov](http://www.nationalservice.gov).

## **MORE INFORMATION**

To learn more about the Senior Companion Program, visit [www.seniorcorps.gov](http://www.seniorcorps.gov) or call 800-424-8867 or TTY 800-833-3722.

*June 2006*